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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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National Intelligence Council

NIC 00480-88
8 February 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.
Acting Chairman

SUBJECT: Point Paper for Possible NSC Meeting on
Mexico-US Summit

1. When NIC officer, [] was Acting National Intelligence Officer for Latin America, he prepared the attached memorandum at the request of Jose Sorzano of the National Security Council. Sorzano was looking for good agenda items for President Reagan's 13 February summit with the Mexican President.

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2. His proposal--Mexican/Soviet Relations and Soviet Intelligence Activities in Mexico--has been favorably received at all levels of the NSC and by Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Elliott Abrams. It is likely to be raised, moreover, at an NSC meeting sometime next week.

3. We understand from an NSC staffer that Colin Powell may wish to have you amplify on the subject of Soviet-Mexican relations at a yet unscheduled meeting of the NSC. I suggest, therefore, that you consider the attached one-page Talking Points and memorandum. The CI Staff and the Latin American Division coordinated on the memorandum.


H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.

Attachments:
as stated above

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POINT PAPER: SOVIET PRESENCE IN MEXICO

OVERVIEW: MOUNTING SOVIET INTEREST IN MEXICO

- Soviet interest in Mexico has rapidly expanded over the last decade, and under Gorbachev has reached unprecedented levels.
- Gorbachev wants to travel to Mexico this year or next, and his keen interest has been reflected in the Soviet media, academic literature, and visits by other high level Soviets.
- Moscow hopes that Mexico will: 1) continue to challenge the US in key areas of our foreign policy; 2) serve as a safe and convenient operating base for an enormous Soviet intelligence collection effort against the US; and 3) agree to even closer bilateral ties, including a new Soviet consulate near the US border.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Soviet and Mexican spokesmen have denied that they have discussed plans for a new consulate, but it is likely that Gorbachev will push hard for this when he visits Mexico.
- He will probably also want to increase the number of Soviet officials in Mexico City, a large percentage of whom are intelligence officers targetted against the US.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- De la Madrid should be urged to reduce the number of Soviet officials presently in Mexico because an inordinately large number are engaged in intelligence activities.
- For example, although Soviet-Mexican trade is miniscule, Moscow has 40 "commercial officers" at its embassy in Mexico City, and will probably seek to expand trade so that additional "commercial officers" can be posted there.
- Although the US is the main target of Soviet intelligence activities, individual Mexicans and important interests groups there could also be vulnerable to Soviet subversion.
- Mexico should resist any Soviet move to open a new consulate, especially one near the US border.

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